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GENERAL

1. US views concerning role of Trieste in Tito situation --The Department of State has informed US representatives in Trieste of its preliminary views concerning the future of Trieste in relation to the current Soviet-Yugoslav dispute. Concerning the possible effect upon Trieste of a swift collapse of the Tito regime, the Department indicates its present estimate to be that even if he is attacked Tito will probably be capable of prolonged resistance in substantial areas of Yugoslavia. The Department declares that the US has no intention of abandoning its support for the eventual return of all the Free Territory of Trieste to Italy, even if a Cominform regime is established in Yugoslavia. The Department indicates that tentative consideration is being given the possibility that the Yugoslav attitude may eventually make possible the establishment of a joint US-British-Yugoslav board to consider common problems in the administration of Trieste. The Department advises the representatives that in general the US considers the initiative for solution of problems in Trieste should come from Yugoslavia.

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